RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 9th August, 1995/18th Sravana, 1917 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF THE "QUIT INDIA" MOVEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on this day, fifty-three years ago, Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, launched the "Quit India" Movement. In response to his clarion call, the whole country rose up against the foreign colonial rule, and thousands of men and women underwent untold sufferings and made the supreme sacrifice. We are the beneficiaries of their struggle and sacrifices. To-day, let us remember with gratitude those heroic martyrs and freedom fighters and try to recapture something of the spirit and fervour of those times and dedicate ourselves to the ideal and values that had inspired them to build a new India.

I would request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs and freedom fighters.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

REFERENCE TO THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DROPPING OF ATOMIC BOMBS ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as the House is aware, fifty years ago, the first ever atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on the 6th and 9th of August, 1945 respectively. Hundreds of thousands of human beings fell victims to this outrage and its tragic consequences are afflicting and haunting the lives of succeeding generations. The nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a grim reminder of the awesome power of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons to destory the world and wipe out human civilization. The end of the cold war has not ended the pursuit of world supremacy by the powers through the possession of nuclear weapons The very existence of these weapons continues to act as a radiating centre for anxiety and insecurity in the mind of humanity and only their complete elimination will free the world from the fear of annihilation. At the agonising moment of Hiroshima, Mahtama Gandhi had said, "unless the world adopts non-violence, it will spell certain suicide for mankind." To prevent such a catastrophe, let us reiterate our stand for a world free of all nuclear weapons.

I would reqest Members to rise in their places and observe silence in memory of the victims of the atomic holocaust.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): Sir, we should have protested against the French and other nuclear tests that are taking place.

We should have protested against that. I say this because you have made a reference to nuclear tests. Now, it is for you to suitably do it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (UTTAR PRADESH): Sir, France and China have decided to continue with their nuclear tests. But the resistance to these nuclear tests is growing in France. There is a movement which has been launched even to go and destroy the ships carrying these detonating devices.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): The U.S.A. has also reserved its right ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the powers are doing it. We know that. The U.S.A. has also said. What I have read out is a protest and an appeal to the world to abjure all nuclear weapons.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, these nuclear tests are making a mockery of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty which is being sought to be imposed on our country in thousand, subtle, ways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I entirely agree with the House. Actually, this is the substance of the reference which I have read out just now.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Whichever country is doing that, we should condemn it.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): We should condemn them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. Now, let us take Question No. 141.

SHRI CHAUTRANAN MISHRA: But Mr. Chairman, the reference made by you should have included this thing. Your agreeing to it is another thing.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): What the Chairman has read out should not be amended. You have raised your voice. But let us not amend it.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): चेयरमैन साहब के रेजोल्यूशन पर कोई अमेंडमेंट नहीं होना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: What you are all saying is included in the reference I have made. This is the substance.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Facilities provided by Pakistan to Indian Pilgrims Visiting Mata Temple, Karachi

* 141. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:†

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agreement with Pakistan for providing facilities to the Indian pilgrims visiting Hinglaj Devi Mata Temple situated near Karachi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The India-Pakistan Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974 allows visits by pilgrims of one country to those shrines located in the other which have been mutually agreed upon by the two countries.

Government have urged the Government of Pakistan to open more shrines, including Mata Hinglaj Devi Temple, to pilgrims from India under the bilateral Protocol. Pakistan has not yet responded to the proposal.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know which are the shrines which are included under the Indo-Pakistan Protocol of 1974, on our side and on their side? This is one thing. Secondly, may I know whether it is possible to include or delete a particular shrine if the total number of shrines is to be restricted to a certain figure? I would like to know whether, under the Protocol, one can include or delete a particular shrine.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the number of shrines is concerned, the number of shrine, which have been agreed to be opened by us for the Pakistani pilgrims is six. The shrines in Pakistan which have been agreed to be opened for the pilgrims from India number fifteen, including one shrine, one Muslim shrine, i.e. the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Val-allah Lahore. Out of this, eleven are Sikh shrines and four are Hindu shrines. If the hon. Member is interested in knowing the names of these shrines, I am do it, but it would take time. Therefore, I would like to lay it on the Table of the House.

In regard to addition or deletion from the list, it is possible, provided both sides agree. For example, we had requested

†Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanjay Dalmia.